1	2
	Mysore
	Tiruchirappalli
	Palghat
	Trivandrum
South Central	Guntakal
	Hubli
	Hyderabad
	Secunderabad
	Vijaywada
South Eastern	Adra
	Bilaspur
	Chakradharpur
	Kharagpur
	Khurda
	Waltair
	Sambalpur
	Nagpur
Western	Ajmer
	Bhavnagar
	Mumbai
	Jaipur
	Kota
	Ratlam
	Vadodara
	Rajkot

*Nanded being set up.

Government has decided to set up eight new Divisions at Agra, Ahmedabad, Guntur, Pune, Raipur, Ranchi, Rangiya and Singrauli.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to set up six new Railways Zones as under :

		HQ
(i)	East-Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
(ii)	North-Central Railway	Allahabad
(iii)	East-Central Railway	Hajipur
(iv)	North-Western Railway	Jaipur
(v)	South-Western Railway	Bangalore
(vi)	West-Central Railway	Jabalpur

(d) New Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(e) The formation of new Zones/Divisions is expected to provide relief to the heavily worked zones/divisions, improve accessibility and enable the administration to have an effective control over the compact zones/divisions leading to better service and customer satisfaction.

(f) The Advisors' Committee set up by the Board to examine the issue had recommended the location of the Headquarter of North-Western Zone at Jaipur.

(g) While the details of estimated cost are being worked out, the estimated cost provided in the Pink Book is Rs. 41.66 Cr. for land, Buildings and other development works, quarters etc. An amount of Rs. 5.24 Cr. has been provided for the year 1997-98

[English]

Upgradation of Posts

5354. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some posts of Assistant Officers were upgraded in 1973 and 1980 in Indian Railways to Senior Scale;

(b) whether this upgradation was done mainly to give benefit to the stagnated group 'B' officers and commitment in this regard was given to the Cabinet;

(c) if so, the number of posts upgraded;

(d) the number of Group 'B' officers regularised against these posts;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in regularising the Group 'B' officers; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to give the benefit to the Group 'B' officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) In 1973 and 1980, 220 and 382 posts, respectively, of Assistant Officers were upgraded to Senior Scale. These upgradations were inter-alia to facilitate larger induction of Group 'B' officers into Group' A/Jr. Scale.

(d) and (e) Only Group 'A' Officers are eligible for regular promotion to Senior Scale posts. Group 'B' Officers are first inducted into Junior Scale of Grouup 'A', whereafter they are considered for promotion to Sr. Scale, subject to their fulfilling the eligibility conditions for such promotion.

(f) Does not arise.

Nickle Plant

5355. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been importing Nickel;